

EXHIBIT

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DATE

Jan. 14, 2013

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CITY of CUT BANK

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Rob Cook
Chairman, Long Range Planning Sub-committee
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

As the Mayor of Cut Bank I am pleased to have the opportunity to address the Long Range Planning Sub-committee regarding the very important Cut Bank Wastewater Improvements Project. This project is necessary to address very stringent EPA and DEQ wastewater discharge permit requirements. While the City of Cut Bank is committed to doing everything it can to reduce the cost of these improvements, it is apparent that the community will need to implement a very expensive project to meet state and federal regulations. As such, the City will be incurring a very large debt and must significantly raise City sewer rates to do so. Our rates may raise as much as 200 percent to approximately \$47 per month depending on the final cost for the project. This is simply not affordable for the people of Cut Bank and we need the help of the TSEP and RRGL Program grants to minimize the impact to our residents. This is especially true for low income and retired persons on a fixed income. We strongly urge the committee to fund our project; it is very important to the City of Cut Bank.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the sub-committee as well as the TSEP and RRGL programs for helping the City with several projects in the past. We recently utilized the programs to upgrade our water distribution system which, like most communities in Montana, is very much in need of upgrading. Our Capital Improvements Program has identified several other very important projects in the future, such as additional water distribution improvements, sewer collection improvements, water treatment plant upgrades and street improvements to name just a few. Our infrastructure needs may also be increased by the recent oil exploration in our area.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today and we ask that our wastewater project be funded.

Yours truly,

Doug Embury, Mayor
City of Cut Bank

